WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



WAR

HOW TO USE
THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books about war as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the animal main character list.
2. Scan the QR code to play the read-aloud video.
3. Students complete the response sheet while listening.
4. Students vote: Would you keep reading?
5. Display the book cover poster to build classroom book buzz.

Classroom Use Ideas Quick List:

- First Chapter Friday
- Sub plans
- Book tasting stations
- Library preview lessons
- Early finisher reading activities

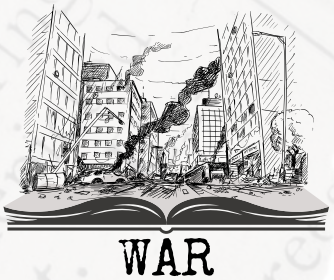
To check the reading level, video length or to find a book purchasing link, look at this Google Doc that organizes ALL of my First Chapter Friday read aloud videos alphabetically.

Table of Contents

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Page 4: What is Frist Chapter Friday?
Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts
Page 7: Book List
Page 8: Full List Book Cover Poster
Pages 10-25 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets
Pages 27-42: Individual Book Posters

** More resources will be added in the future including a Reading Round Up Video to briefly explain every video on this list and possibly even some thematic coloring sheets.
As always, please email me with any title requests or questions. (wordnerd@amandazieba.com)

HAPPY READING!



MUST TRY

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba



First Chapter Friday Videos

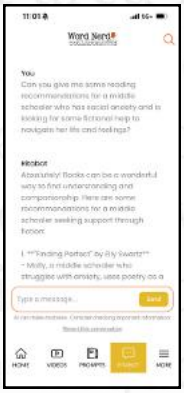


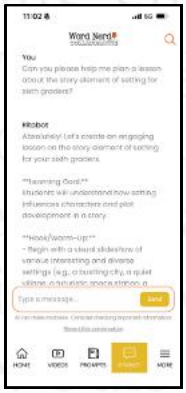
Writing Prompt Library

FREE!



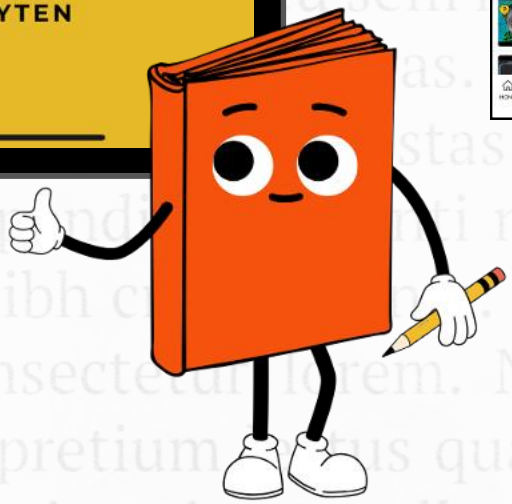
ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning





Brain Break Videos





AVIALBLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



FIRST CHAPTER Friday Videos

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works?

Check out this video for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas.



If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click here.

Click here for a live, continually updated, Google Doc of the First Chapter Friday videos on my channel. Additionally you will find links to purchase the books and watch the read aloud videos, as well as book reading levels, genre/format, video length and more!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

Teacher Planning Sheet

First CHAPTER Friday



DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	STUDENT REACTION?

Name: _____

Quarter: #___



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

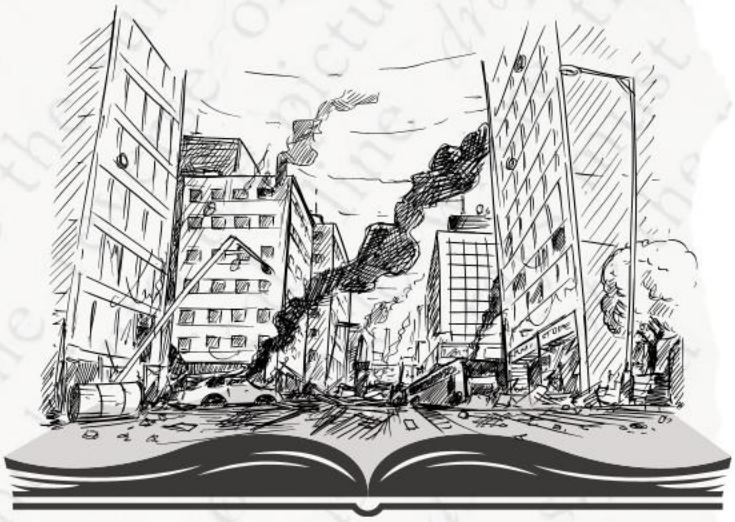
TRACKER

Use this worksheet to keep track of the First Chapter Friday Videos you listen to throughout the quarter.

DATE	TITLE/AUTHOR	GENRE	REACTION

CREATED BY AMANDA ZIEBA, THE WORD NERD

WAR



These books deal with military conflicts and they way they affect the world, specifically focusing on the impacts of child-aged characters.

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus

The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Letters From Rifka by Karen Hesse

Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood

Muhammad Najem: War Reporter by Muhammad Najem, Nora Neus, & Julie Robine

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Shadow on the Mountain by Margi Preus

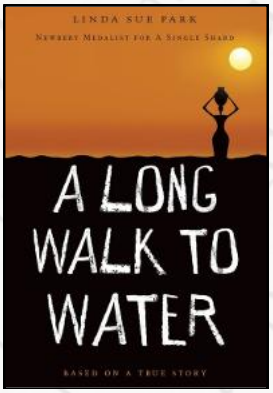
Stealing Home by J. Torres

War Games by Alan Gratz

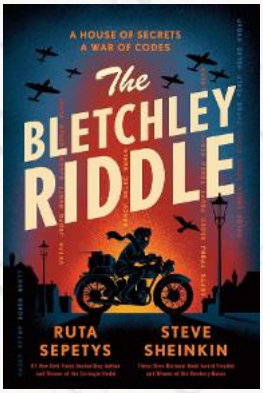
The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

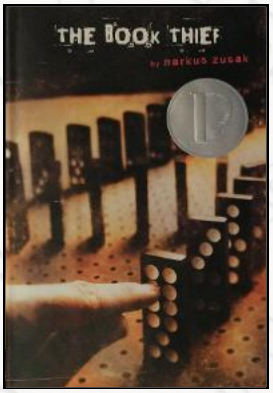
WNC BOOK LIST

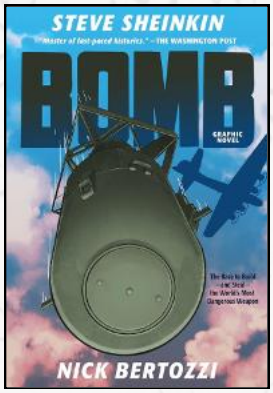
BOOKS ABOUT: WAR

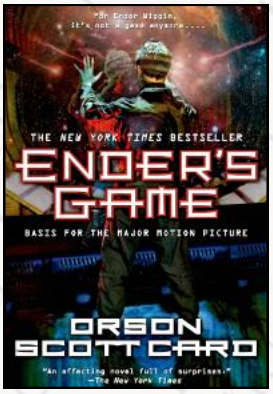


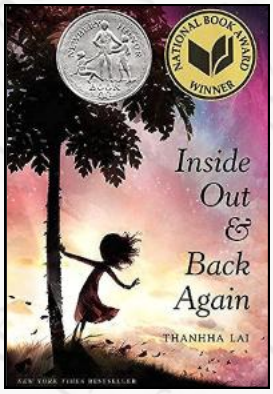


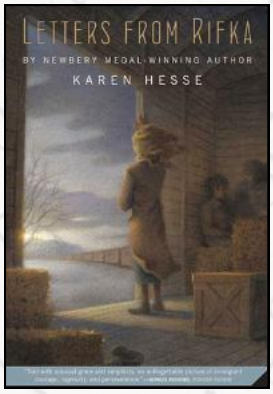


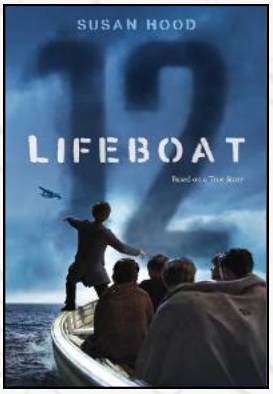


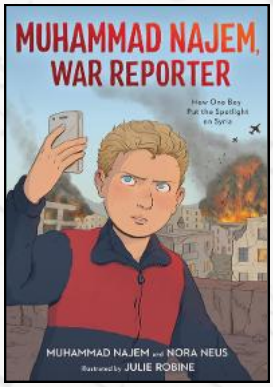


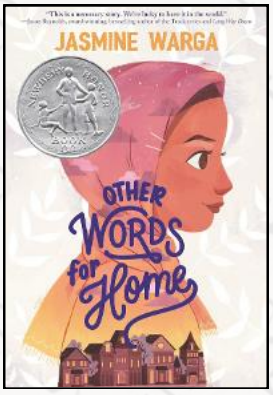


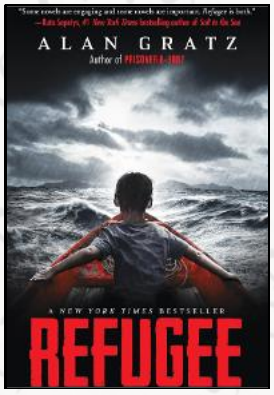


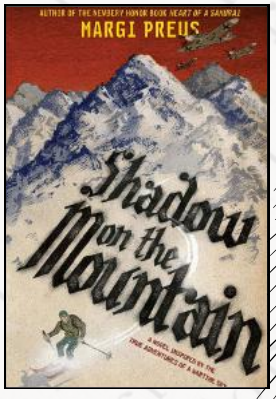




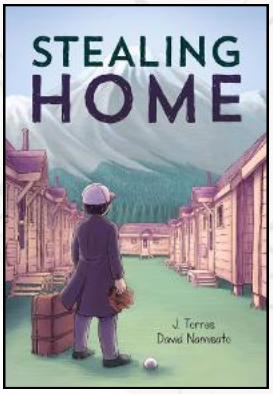


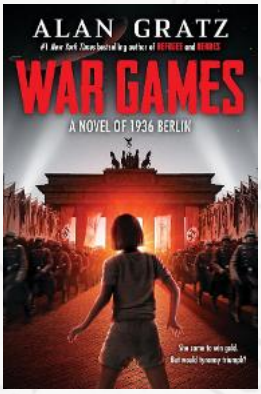


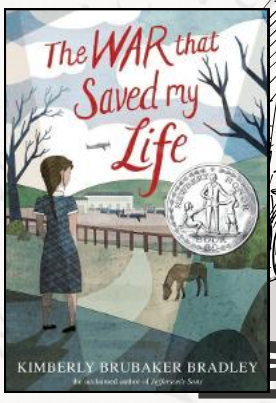










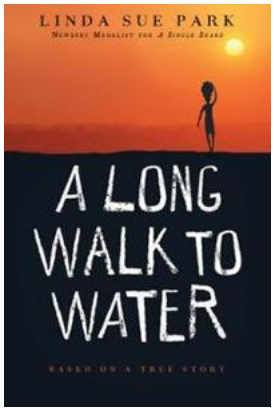


INDIVIDUAL BOOK SHEETS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

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Name _____ Date _____

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the 'lost boys' of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way. This book includes an afterword by author Linda Sue Park and the real-life Salva Dut, on whom the novel is based, and who went on to found Water for South Sudan.

Who Wrote It?

Linda Sue Park is the author of the Newbery Medal book A Single Shard, many other novels, and several picture books, She lives in Rochester, New York, with her family, and is now a devoted fan of the New York Mets. Her parents immigrated to the US from Korea and she loves cooking, snorkeling and knitting. For more infromation visit www.lspark.com.



AR Reading Level: 5.0 Lexile Level: 720L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

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Name _____ Date _____



A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus

Includes Author Interview!

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

It is 1940 and William, 12, Edmund, 11, and Anna, 9, aren't terribly upset by the death of the not-so-grandmotherly grandmother who has taken care of them since their parents died. But the children do need a guardian, and in the dark days of World War II London, those are in short supply, especially if they hope to stay together. Could the mass wartime evacuation of children from London to the countryside be the answer? It's a preposterous plan, but off they go-- keeping their predicament a secret, and hoping to be placed in a temporary home that ends up lasting forever. Moving from one billet to another, the children suffer the cruel trickery of foster brothers, the cold realities of outdoor toilets and the hollowness of empty stomachs. But at least they find comfort in the village lending library-- a cozy shelter from the harshness of everyday life, filled with favorite stories and the quiet company of Nora Müller, the kind librarian. The children wonder if Nora could be the family they've been searching for. . . . But the shadow of the war, and the unknown whereabouts of Nora's German husband complicate matters.

Who Wrote It?

I started writing after stepping away from my career as a research psychologist to be with my kids. I had written plenty of scientific stuff, and always assumed I had to be either scientific or creative – but not both. Silly. Then I attended a dear friend's creative writing group and fell in love with it. I had a story in my head – about the World War II evacuation of London – and squirreled myself away in my studio while my kids were in school. For at least a hundred pages, I didn't even tell my family I was doing it, but when we'd had pizza for a suspicious number of dinners, I finally fessed up.



I love writing for the pure, simple, solitary pleasure of it. I love spending a year or more with characters who come to feel like family.

AR Reading Level: 5.0

Lexile Level: N/A

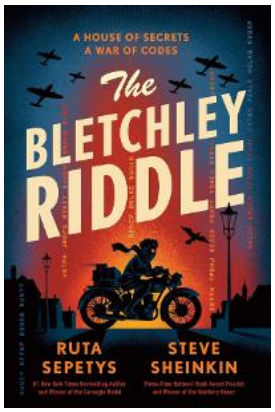
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

The Bletchley Riddle

Written by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creators. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

ARemember, you are bound by the Official Secrets Act...

Summer, 1940. Nineteen-year-old Jakob Novis and his quirky younger sister Lizzie share a love of riddles and puzzles. And now they're living inside of one. The quarrelsome siblings find themselves amidst one of the greatest secrets of World War II—Britain's eccentric codebreaking factory at Bletchley Park. As Jakob joins Bletchley's top minds to crack the Nazi's Enigma cipher, fourteen-year-old Lizzie embarks on a mission to solve the mysterious disappearance of their mother. The Battle of Britain rages and Hitler's invasion creeps closer. And at the same time, baffling messages and codes arrive on their doorstep while a menacing inspector lurks outside the gates of the Bletchley mansion. Are the messages truly for them, or are they a trap? Could the riddles of Enigma and their mother's disappearance be somehow connected? Jakob and Lizzie must find a way to work together as they race to decipher clues which unravel a shocking puzzle that presents the ultimate challenge: How long must a secret be kept?

Who Wrote It?

Ruta Sepetys



Ruta Sepetys was born and raised in Michigan in a family of artists, readers, and music lovers. The daughter of a refugee, Ruta is drawn to underrepresented stories of strength through struggle and hopes to give voice to those who weren't able to tell their story. Her award-winning historical novels are published in more than sixty countries and have received over forty literary prizes.

Two Authors!

Steve Sheinkin



A former textbook writer, Steve Sheinkin is now making amends by writing history books that kids and teens actually want to read. His books have won numerous awards. Steve lives with his family in Saratoga Springs, NY.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: 540L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

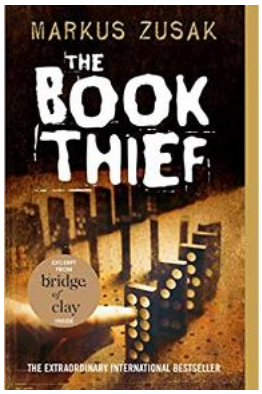
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Name _____ Date _____



The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

When Death has a story to tell, you listen.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist-books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of I Am the Messenger, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

Who Wrote It?

Markus Zusak is the author of five books, including the international bestseller, The Book Thief, which spent more than a decade on the New York Times bestseller list, and is translated into more than forty languages – establishing Zusak as one of the most successful authors to come out of Australia. His books have been awarded numerous honours ranging from literary prizes to readers choice awards to prizes voted on by booksellers. Markus Zusak grew up in Sydney, Australia, and still lives there with his wife and two children.



AR Reading Level: 5.1 Lexile Level: 730L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

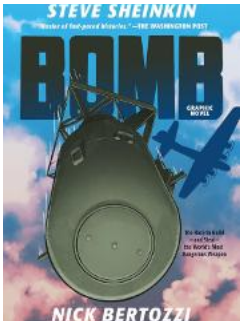
WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____



Bomb

Written by Steve Sheinkin

Illustrated by Nick Bertozzi

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned three continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists, led by "father of the atomic bomb" J. Robert Oppenheimer, was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. A riveting graphic novel adaptation of the award-winning nonfiction book, Bomb—the fascinating and frightening true story of the creation behind the most destructive force that birthed the arms race and the Cold War.

Who Wrote It?

Steve was born in Brooklyn, NY, and my family lived in Mississippi and Colorado before moving back to New York and settling in the suburbs north of New York City. As a kid his favorite books were action stories and outdoor adventures. I went to Syracuse University and studied communications and international relations. The highlight of those years was a summer I spent in Central America, where I worked on a documentary on the streets of Nicaragua. After college Steve moved made a movie with his brother, wrote comics and worked for a textbook company. After a lot of time spent writing and editing for other people, he finally got the opportunity to write his own book and ideas and aren't we all lucky he did! Other people agree because Steve has won many awards for his work. You can learn more about Steve on his website: www.stevesheinkin.com.



Photo Credit: Erica Miller

AR Reading Level: 4.8 Lexile Level: 640L

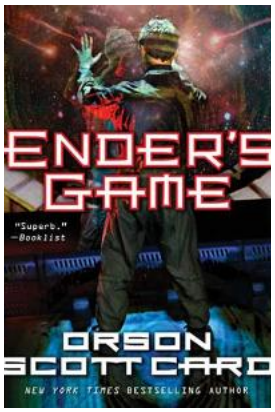
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

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Name _____ Date _____

Ender's Game
by Orson Scott Card

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

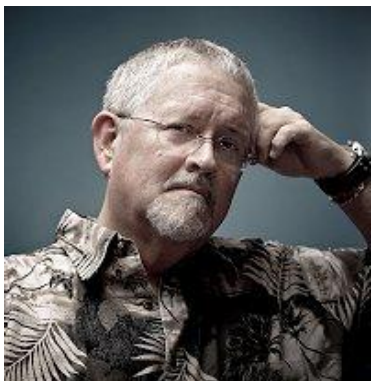
What's It About?

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. Young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If, that is, the world survives.

Orson Scott Card's Ender's Game is the winner of the 1985 Nebula Award for Best Novel and the 1986 Hugo Award for Best Novel.

Who Wrote It?

Card was born in Washington and grew up in California, Arizona, and Utah. As a child he enjoyed reading and playing in the marching band. ard graduated from high school at the end of his junior year. He won a Presidential Scholarship to BYU which he entered as an archaeology major. Like many young artists in love with their art, Card resented all the hours that the university required him to "waste" on general education re= quirements; as a novelist, however, he found that those were the most useful parts of his college education. Besides his writing, he teaches classes and workshops and directs plays. Card currently lives in Greensboro, NC, with his wife, Kristine Allen Card.



AR Reading Level: 5.5 Lexile Level: 780

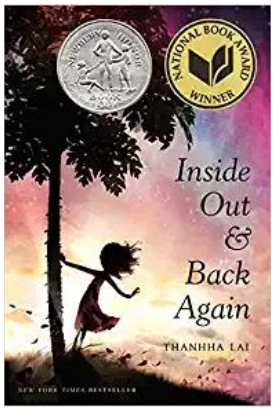
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhhà Lai

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.

This book is told in poems.

This book was the winner of the National Book Award, a Newbery Honor, and was a #1 New York Times bestseller!

Who Wrote It?

Thanhhà Lại is a Vietnamese-American writer of middle-grade and young adult novels. She lives in upstate New York with her husband and daughter. Her dog Pico assists her by stepping directly onto the keys of her computer as she types. Aside from writing, she started a non-profit organization called Viet Kids Inc. Her goal was, and still is, so simple: to buy bicycles for poor students who otherwise would walk two hours to and two hours from school. With a bike, the trip would shorten to half an hour, leaving energy to spend in the classrooms. You can learn more about this project and Thanhha's other book on her website: www.thanhhalai.com/



AR Reading Level: 4.8 Lexile Level: 800L

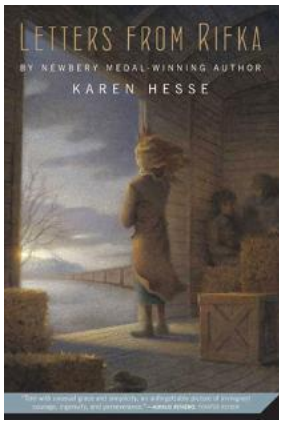
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Ken to escape. He suspects his stepmother is glad to see him go, but his dad says he's one of the lucky ones—one of ninety boys and girls to ship out aboard the SS City of Benares to safety in Canada. Life aboard the luxury ship is grand—nine-course meals, new friends, and a life far from the bombs, rations, and his stepmum's glare. And after five days at sea, the ship's officers announce that they're out of danger. They're wrong. Late that night, an explosion hurls Ken from his bunk. They've been hit. Torpedoed! The Benares is sinking fast. Terrified, Ken scrambles aboard Lifeboat 12 with five other boys. Will they get away? Will they survive?

A Junior Library Guild Selection
The 2019 Golden Kite Middle Grade Fiction Award Winner
A 2019 ALSC Notable Children's Book
The 2019-2020 Lectio Book Award Winner
The 2020-2021 Florida Sunshine State Young Readers Award List
The 2020 Oklahoma Library Association's Children's Sequoyah Book Award Winner
The Connecticut Book Award Winner

Who Wrote It?

I was born in 1952, in Baltimore, Maryland. I lived in a brick, row house in the city and my neighborhood brimmed with children my age. Summers were spent flying in and out of each other's homes. We were generally unsupervised, playing from early morning until late in the evening when our parents came out on their porches and called us home. We played everything from jacks to hopscotch, jump rope to 'swinging statues', 'talent show' to 'mothers and babies'. There was a park about 5 blocks from my house in one direction and a public library about the same distance in the other direction and I loved going to both. I graduated from high school when I was sixteen and attended Towson State College for one year as a theater major, then the University of Maryland for three more years where I graduated with a B.A. in English with double minors in Psychology and Anthropology. I've



lived in Vermont since 1976 where, with my husband, I've raised two amazing daughters. I love to knit dolls, go hiking, take photographs, read, write little tunes for the piano, paint, sing, and cook.

AR Reading Level: 4.2

Lexile Level: 660L

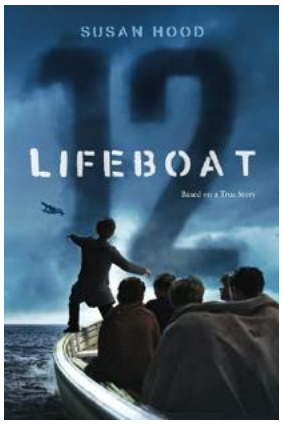
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood

Includes Author Interview!

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Ken to escape. He suspects his stepmother is glad to see him go, but his dad says he's one of the lucky ones—one of ninety boys and girls to ship out aboard the SS City of Benares to safety in Canada. Life aboard the luxury ship is grand—nine-course meals, new friends, and a life far from the bombs, rations, and his stepmum's glare. And after five days at sea, the ship's officers announce that they're out of danger. They're wrong. Late that night, an explosion hurls Ken from his bunk. They've been hit. Torpedoed! The Benares is sinking fast. Terrified, Ken scrambles aboard Lifeboat 12 with five other boys. Will they get away? Will they survive?

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The 2020-2021 Florida Sunshine State Young Readers Award List
The 2020 Oklahoma Library Association's Children's Sequoyah Book Award Winner
The Connecticut Book Award Winner

Who Wrote It?

Where I was born: Brooklyn, New York
Where I went to college: Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts
Where I got my first (real) job: Scholastic in New York City
Where I live now: A small town in coastal Connecticut

Little-known facts:

- Until I was 10, I had really long braids. Really long!
- My eyes are green, but most people think they're blue. They change, depending on the color I'm wearing.
- I was the youngest person in my hometown with a library card.
- My mom adored animals, so we always had a parade of pets, two or three at a time. They were mostly dogs and cats, but also included fish, turtles, a parakeet, and rabbits.

Discover more facts about Susan on her amazing website: www.susanhoodbooks.com!



AR Reading Level: 4.0

Lexile Level: 610

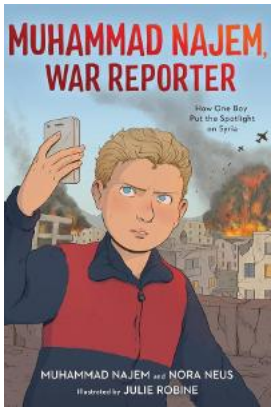
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Muhammad Najem: War Reporter

by Muhammad Najem & Nora Neus

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Muhammad Najem was only eight years old when the war in Syria began. He was thirteen when his beloved Baba, his father, was killed in a bombing while praying. By fifteen, Muhammad didn't want to hide anymore—he wanted to act. He was determined to reveal what families like his were enduring in Syria: bombings by their own government and days hiding in dark underground shelters. Armed with the camera on his phone and the support of his family, he started reporting on the war using social media. He interviewed other kids like him to show what they hope for and dream about. More than anything, he did it to show that Syrian kids like his toddler brother and infant sister, are just like kids in any other country. Despite unimaginable loss, Muhammad was always determined to document the humanity of the Syrian people. Eventually, the world took notice. This tenderly illustrated graphic memoir is told by Muhammad himself along with CNN producer Nora Neus, who helped break Muhammad's story and bring his family's plight to an international audience.

Who Wrote It?

Muhammad Najem is from the eastern city of Ghouta in Syria. He began filming and reporting on the war in Syria at the age of 15 to share with the world the horrors of bombings, death, and destruction occurring daily in his homeland. He lived through eight years of war—documenting and sharing the stories and realities of the Syrian people online. In 2019, Muhammad moved to Turkey with his family, where they are now safe. However, the war in Syria continues more than 11 years later, and people still lose their lives every day. He remains committed to reporting on Syria to keep the world informed of the truth. In addition to this book, Muhammad was featured in Angelina Jolie's book Know Your Rights and Claim Them, a guide empowering young people worldwide to advocate for themselves and others. Currently, Muhammad is focused on improving his English and continuing his education.



AR Reading Level: 3.1

Lexile Level: N/A

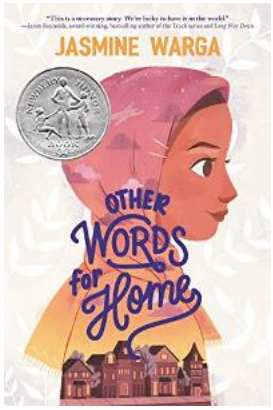
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is. This lyrical, life-affirming story written as a novel in verse is about losing and finding home and, most importantly, finding yourself.

Who Wrote It?

I was born on April 24, 1988 at 11:59 PM in Cincinnati, Ohio. This means that I am a Taurus if you are into astrology and star stuff, which I most definitely am. Also, like all other people from Cincinnati, I am inordinately proud of my little Midwestern city and think that Graeter's black raspberry chip ice cream is the most delicious food in the whole world. (I'm really into a baby hippo named Fiona, too. She makes her home at the Cincinnati Zoo.) I loved to read. I also loved to tell stories. I come from a long-line of story-tellers. I only met my paternal grandmother twice —she lived in Jordan— but one of my most distinct childhood



memories is of her telling me a story about the mermaids that live in the Dead Sea. That story has stayed with me for years. Stories are the way I make sense of our messy and complicated world.

AR Reading Level: 5.3 Lexile Level: 930L

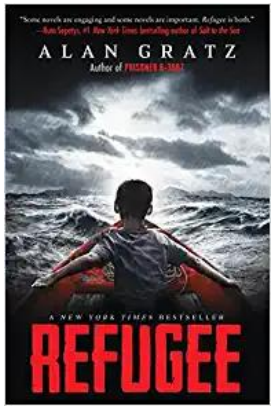
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Refugee
by Alan Gratz

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

** New York Times Bestseller!

Who Wrote It?

Alan was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, home of the 1982 World's Fair. After a carefree but humid childhood, Alan attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a College Scholars degree with a specialization in creative writing, and, later, a Master's degree in English education. He now lives with his wife Wendi and his daughter Jo in Asheville, North Carolina, where he enjoys playing games, eating pizza, and, perhaps not too surprisingly, reading



books. Alan has traveled to 39 states and 6 countries to talk with readers about his books! You can learn more about Alan by visiting his website: www.alagratz.com.

AR Reading Level: 5.3 Lexile Level: 800L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

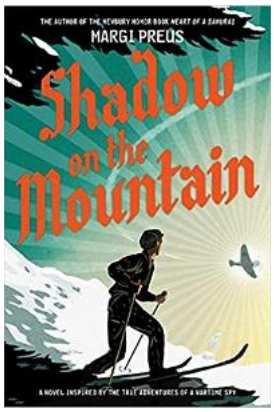
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Name _____ Date _____



Shadow on the Mountain by Margi Preus

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Shadow on the Mountain recounts the adventures of a 14-year-old Norwegian boy named Espen during World War II. After Nazi Germany invades and occupies Norway, Espen and his friends are swept up in the Norwegian resistance movement. Espen gets his start by delivering illegal newspapers, then graduates to the role of courier and finally becomes a spy, dodging the Gestapo along the way. During five years under the Nazi regime, he gains—and loses—friends, falls in love, and makes one small mistake that threatens to catch up with him as he sets out to escape on skis over the mountains to Sweden.

Preus incorporates archival photographs, maps, and other images to tell this story based on the real-life adventures of Norwegian Erling Storrusten, whom Preus interviewed in Norway.

Who Wrote It?

I grew up in a pretty town in Minnesota, in a beautiful area of rolling hills, farms, and hardwood forests. My mother was a pianist, organist, and piano teacher. My father was a Lutheran pastor. He liked to hunt and fish and walk in the woods, and I liked to walk in the woods with him. Before I started writing books, I had a lot of oddball jobs: I taught swimming lessons in remote Alaskan villages, was a groom at a horse race track, have been an adventure travel guide, a professional note-taker, a dance instructor, a teacher of fiction writing—also children's literature and the director of a theater company in Duluth,



Minnesota, where I still live. Learn more about Margi, by visiting her website: https://www.margipreus.com/ or by listening to the interview at the end of this video!

AR Reading Level: 5.0 Lexile Level: 730L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Stealing Home
by J. Torres

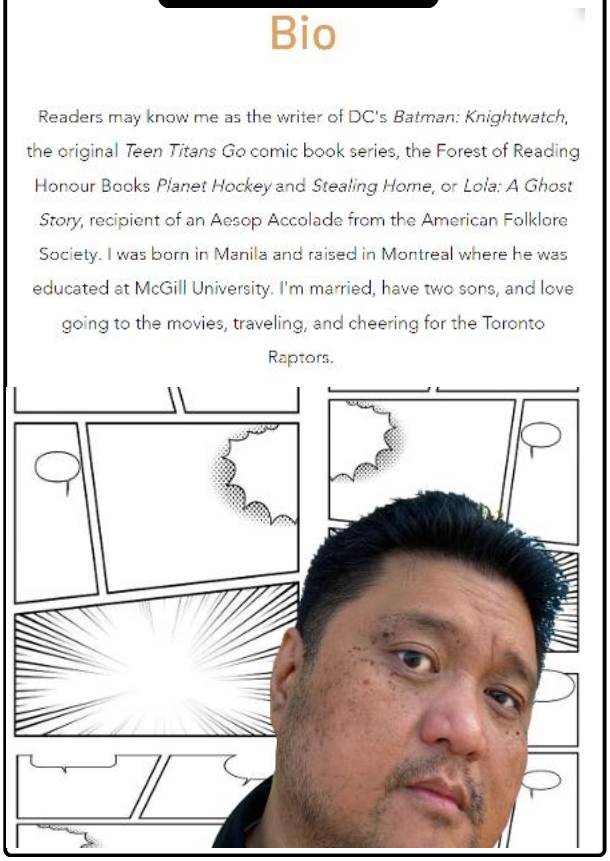
Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Sandy Saito is a happy boy who reads comic books and is obsessed with baseball --- especially the Asahi team, the pride of his Japanese Canadian community. But when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, his life, like that of every other North American of Japanese descent, changes forever. His family is forced to move to a remote internment camp, and his father must spend months away from them. Sandy, his mother and his brother cope as best they can with the difficulties at the camp. Over time, Sandy comes to realize that life is a lot like baseball. It's about dealing with whatever is thrown at you, however you can. And it's about finding your way home. In this emotionally gripping graphic novel, J. Torres has artfully woven a fictional story into a historically accurate, thoroughly researched account of the events surrounding the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II. Using the approachable graphic novel format, the story of this grave chapter in North American history is gently told with sensitivity and insight, and the theme of baseball runs through the story as a message of hope and renewal.

Who Wrote It?



AR Reading Level: 3.3

Lexile Level: 430L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK

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Name _____ Date _____



Includes Author Interview!

War Games by Alan Gratz

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

In 1936 Berlin, nothing is what it seems... Evie Harris can't believe her luck: She's competing in the Olympics, along with fellow American athletes like Jesse Owens. True, there's something creepy about Germany's leader, Adolf Hitler, who watches over the games with his Nazi henchmen. But Evie's just here to win a gold medal in gymnastics. Until she discovers a horrible secret. Behind all the Olympic fanfare, the Nazis have Berlin in an iron grip of terror and violence--and war is brewing. When Evie becomes embroiled in a mysterious plot to help steal Nazi gold, she must navigate the city's darkest corners and hidden passageways, never knowing who she can trust. With lives on the line and her family's future at stake, Evie has to choose between following her Olympic dreams and standing up to evil... before it's too late. #1 New York Times bestselling author Alan Gratz is back and better than ever with this heart-racing, plot-twisting story about the roots of World War II and the sacrifices we make for what matters most.

Who Wrote It?

Alan was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, home of the 1982 World's Fair. After a carefree but humid childhood, Alan attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a College Scholars degree with a specialization in creative writing, and, later, a Master's degree in English education. A member of the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame, Alan now lives with his family in Portland, Oregon, where he enjoys playing games, eating pizza, and, perhaps not too surprisingly, reading books. You can learn more about Alan and his work (20 and counting!) at www.alangratz.com



AR Reading Level: 4.9

Lexile Level: N/A

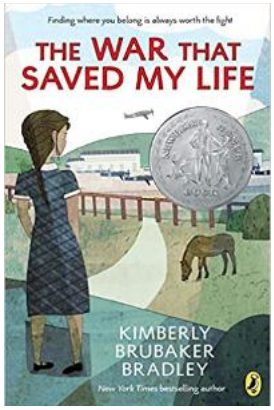
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

*Newbery Honor book
*Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award

Who Wrote It?

In 1967, Kimberly was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She always loved to read, often skipping recess to go talk with her school librarian. Being a writer floated in her daydreams, but she didn't know any writers, and it didn't feel like a real job. In school she loved chemistry in addition to writing. When she went to college, she majored in chemistry. She was lucky, though, a liberal arts school (Smith) where she was encouraged to study all sorts of different subjects, and she took lots of writing classes. She married my high-school sweetheart, and for awhile I worked as a research chemist and wrote stories late at night and on weekends. But eventually, she realized she really wanted to be a writer and began pursuing that path. Kimberly and her husband and live in Bristol, TN where we live on a 52-acre farm. We love to travel and learn about history from all over the world.



AR Reading Level: 4.1 Lexile Level: 580L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

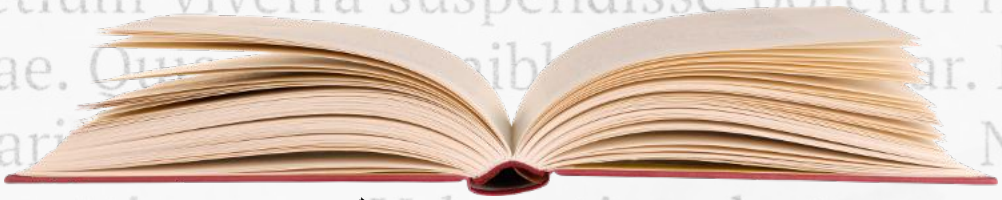
WHAT I THINK



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INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS

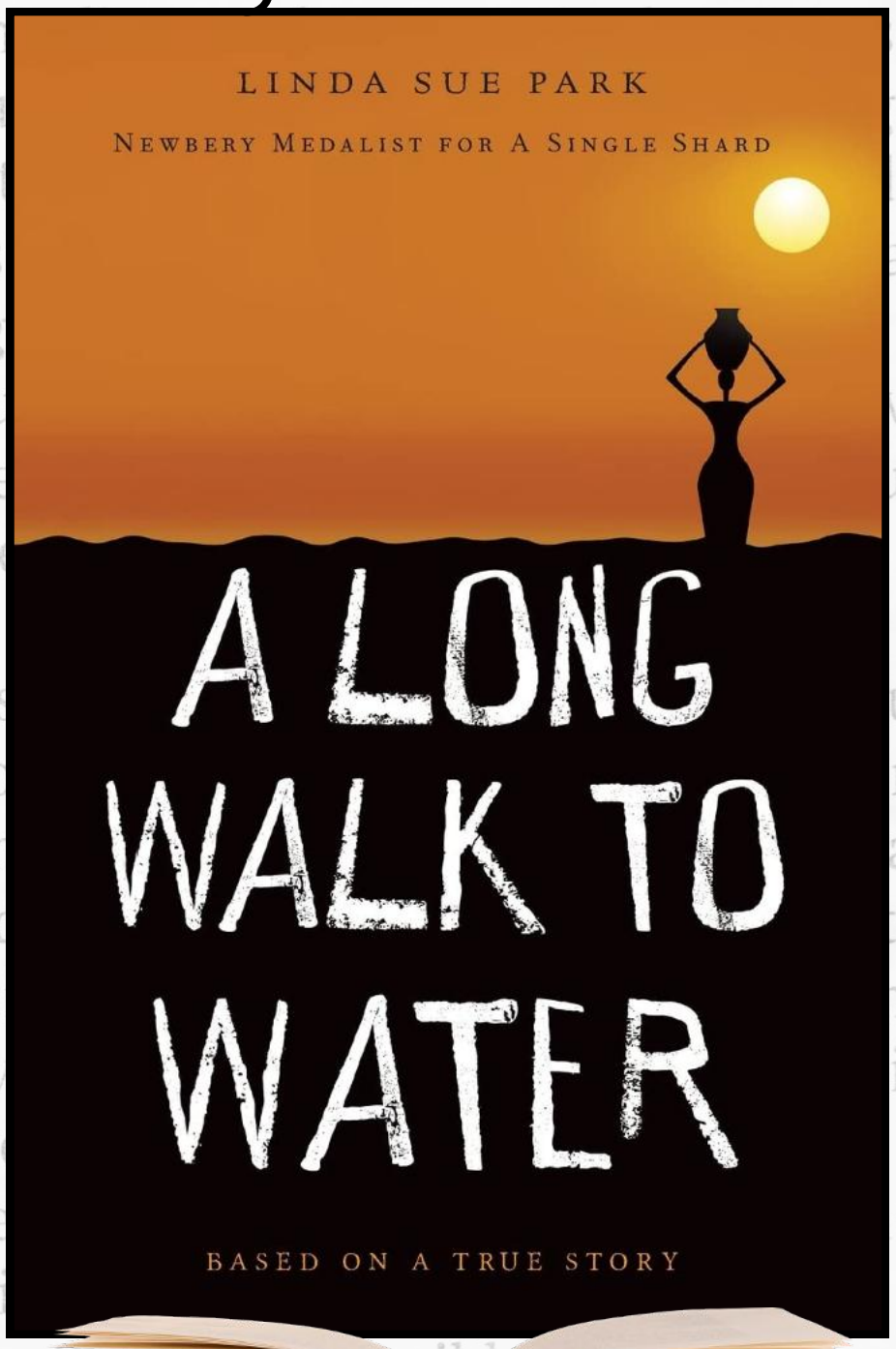




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A LONG WALK TO WATER

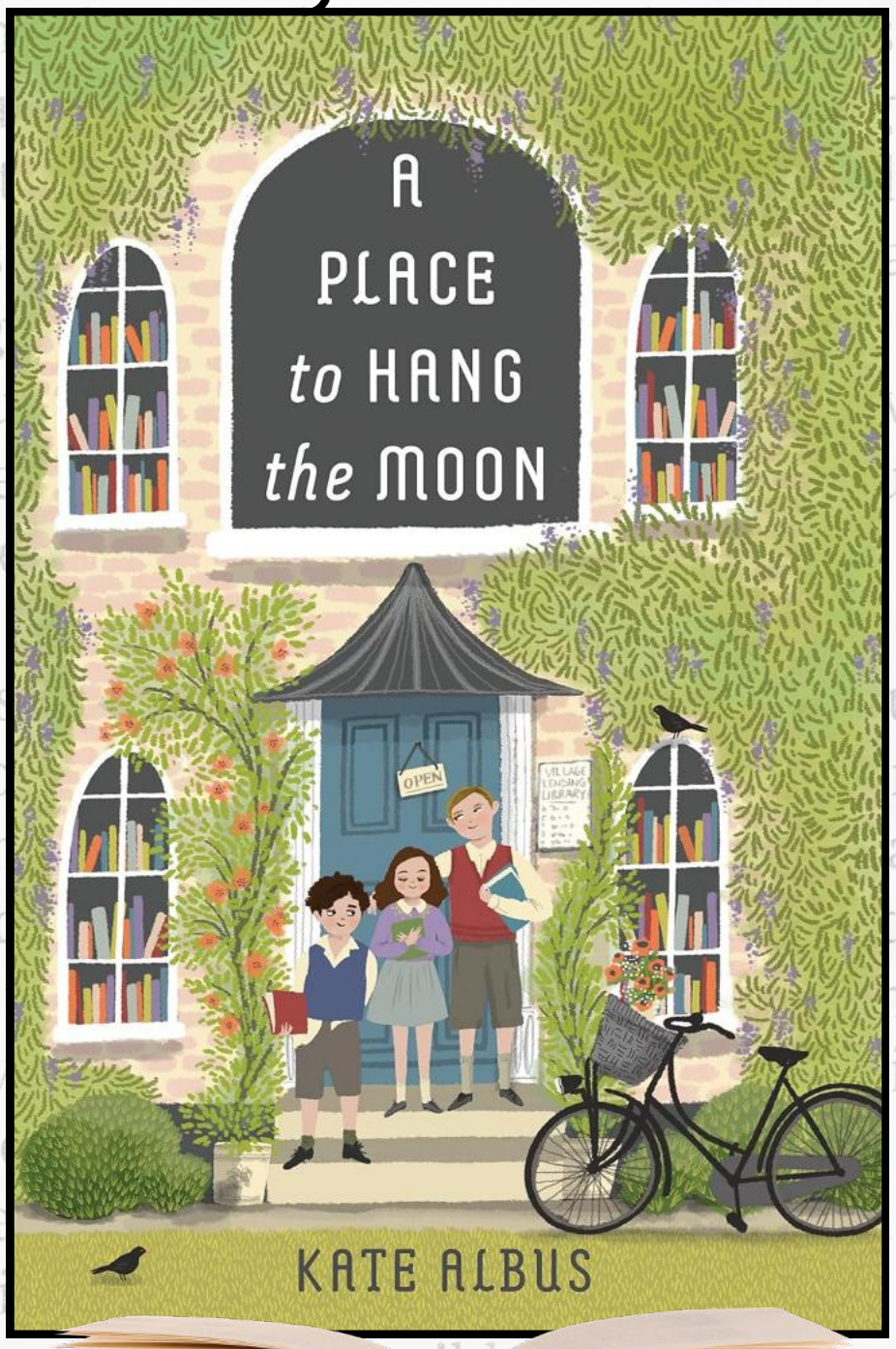
By Linda Sue Park



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A PLACE TO HANG THE MOON

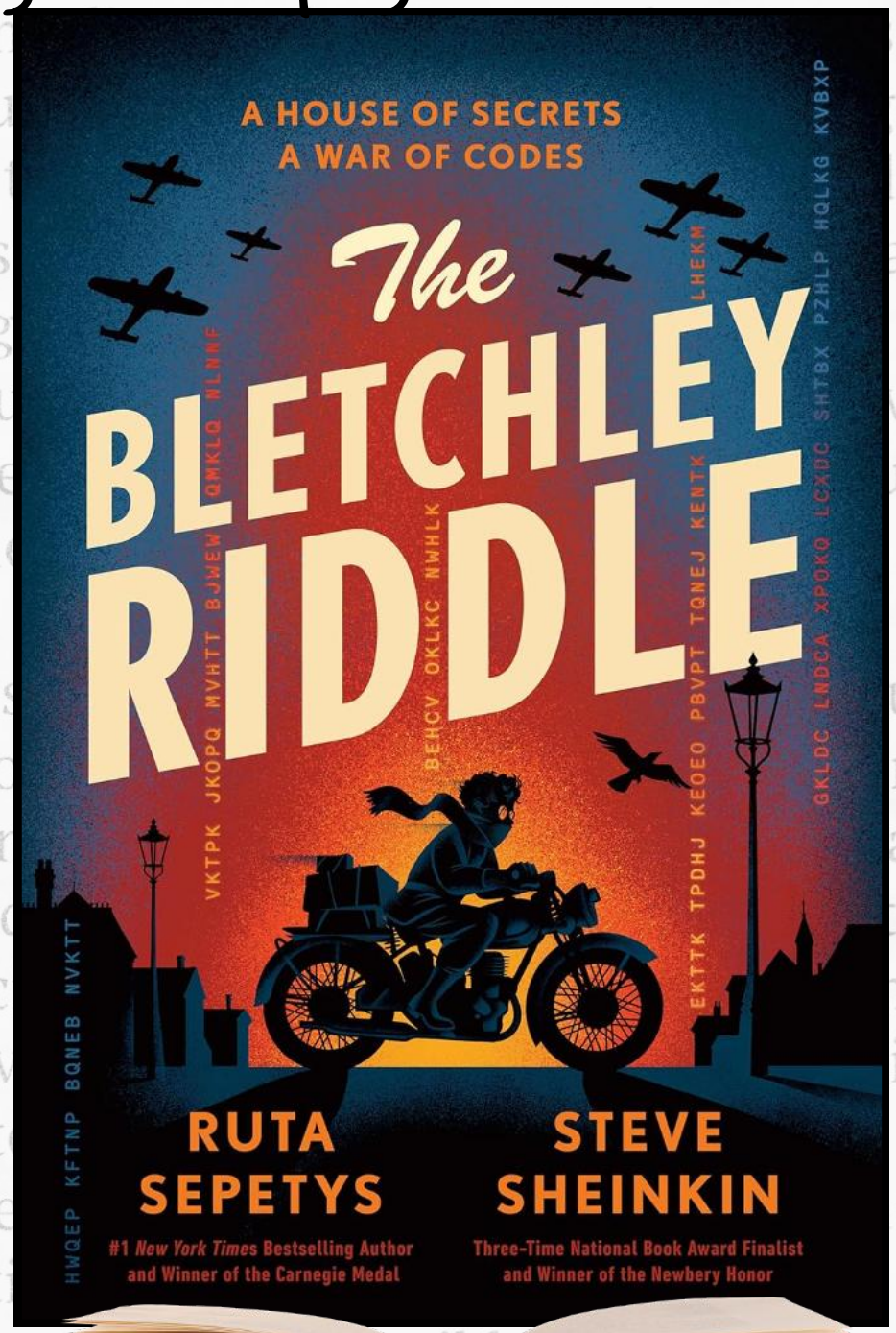
By Kate Albus



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THE BLETCHLEY RIDDLE

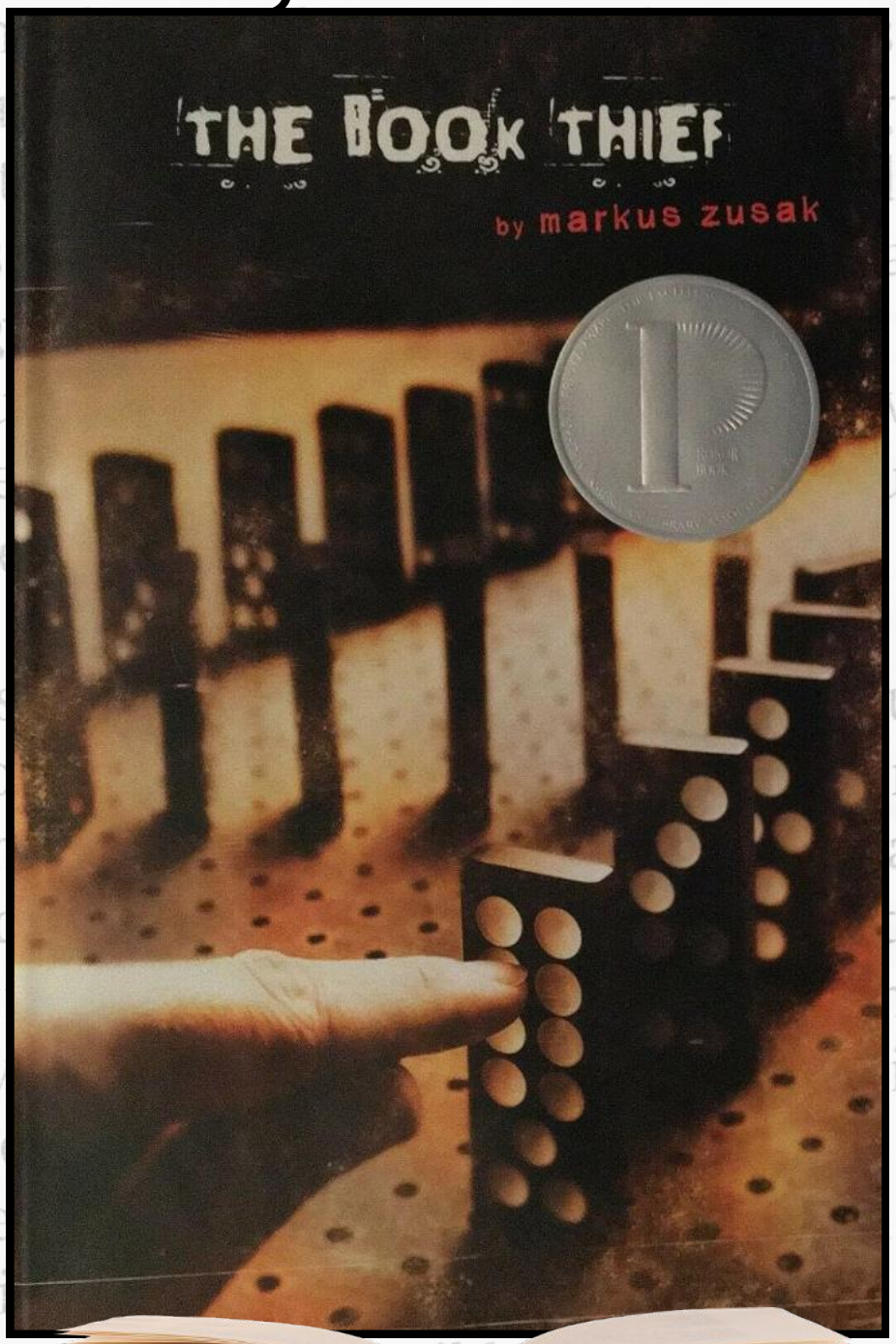
By Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin



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THE BOOK THIEF

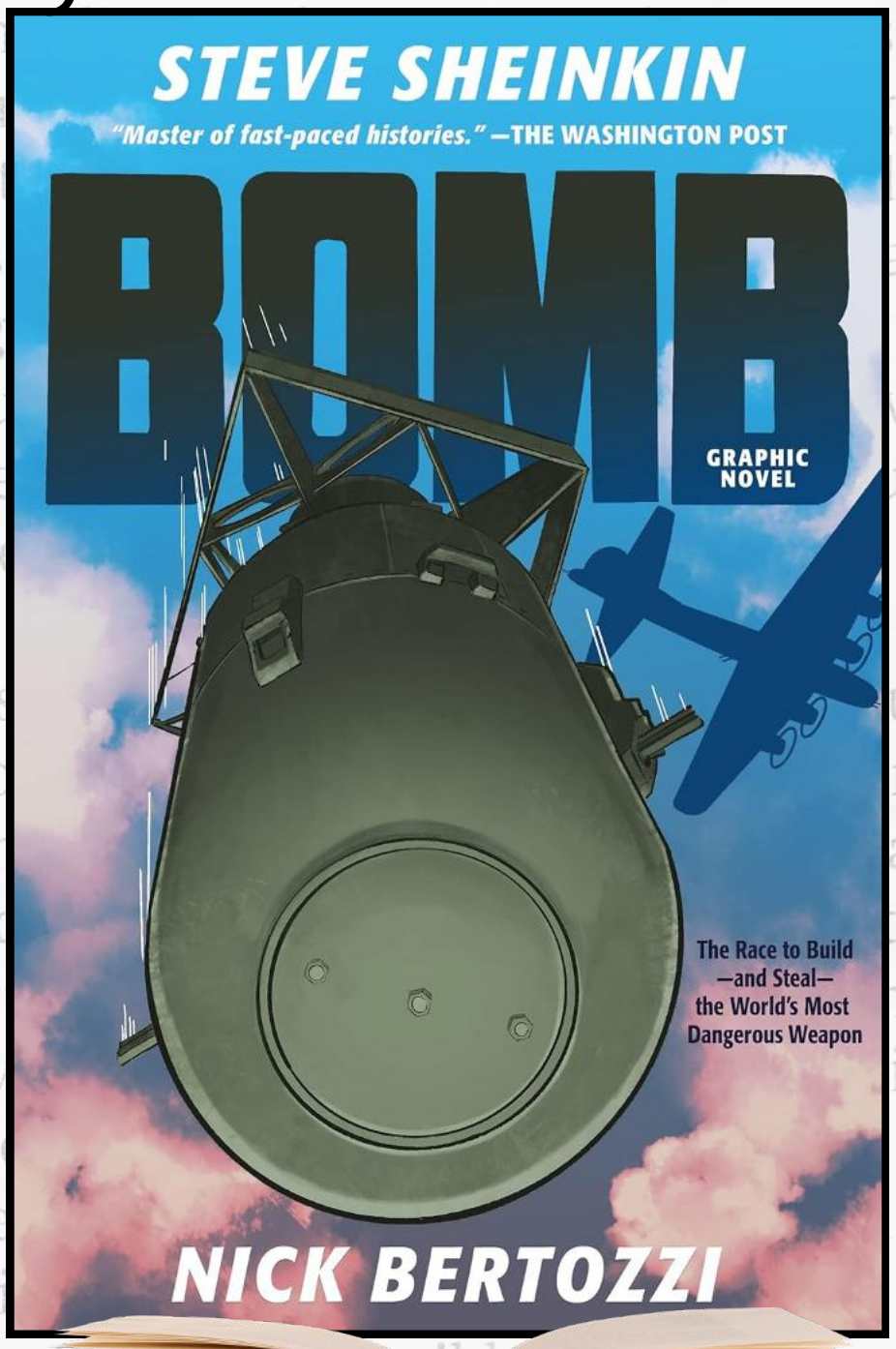
By Markus Zusak



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BOMB

By Steve Sheinkin & Nick Bertozzi

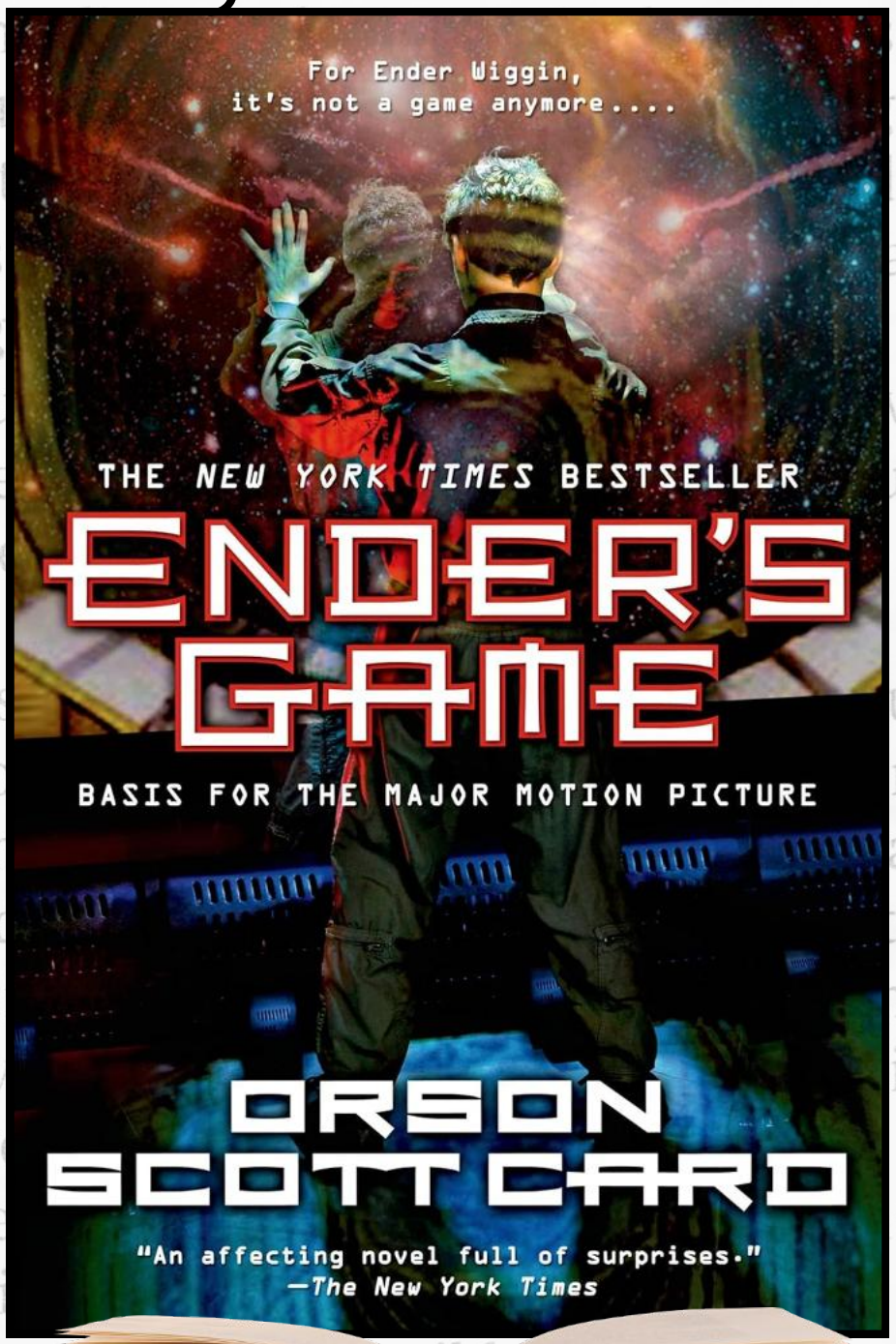




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ENDER'S GAME

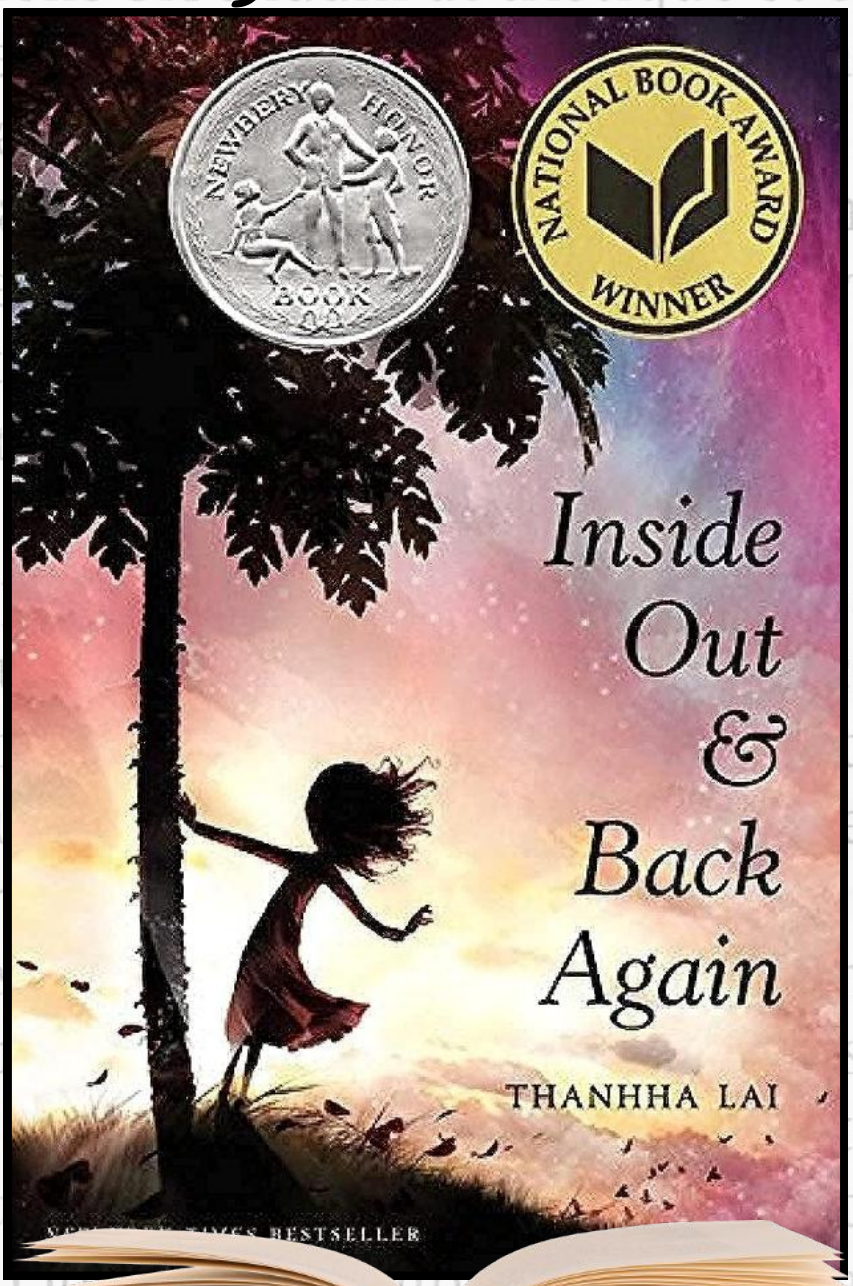
By Orson Scott Card



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INSIDE OUT & BACK AGAIN

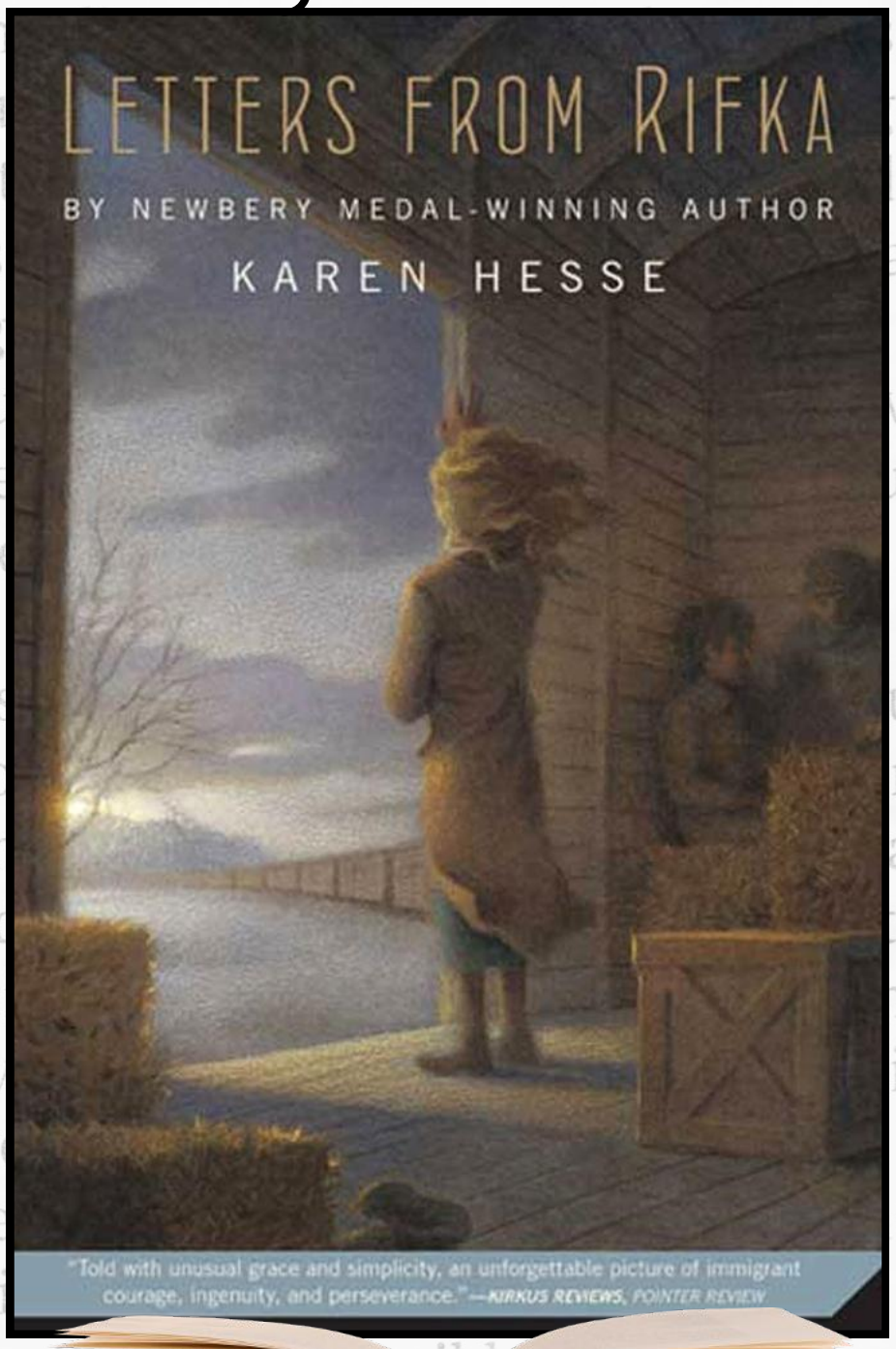
by Thanhha Lai



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

LETTERS FROM RIFKA

By Karen Hesse

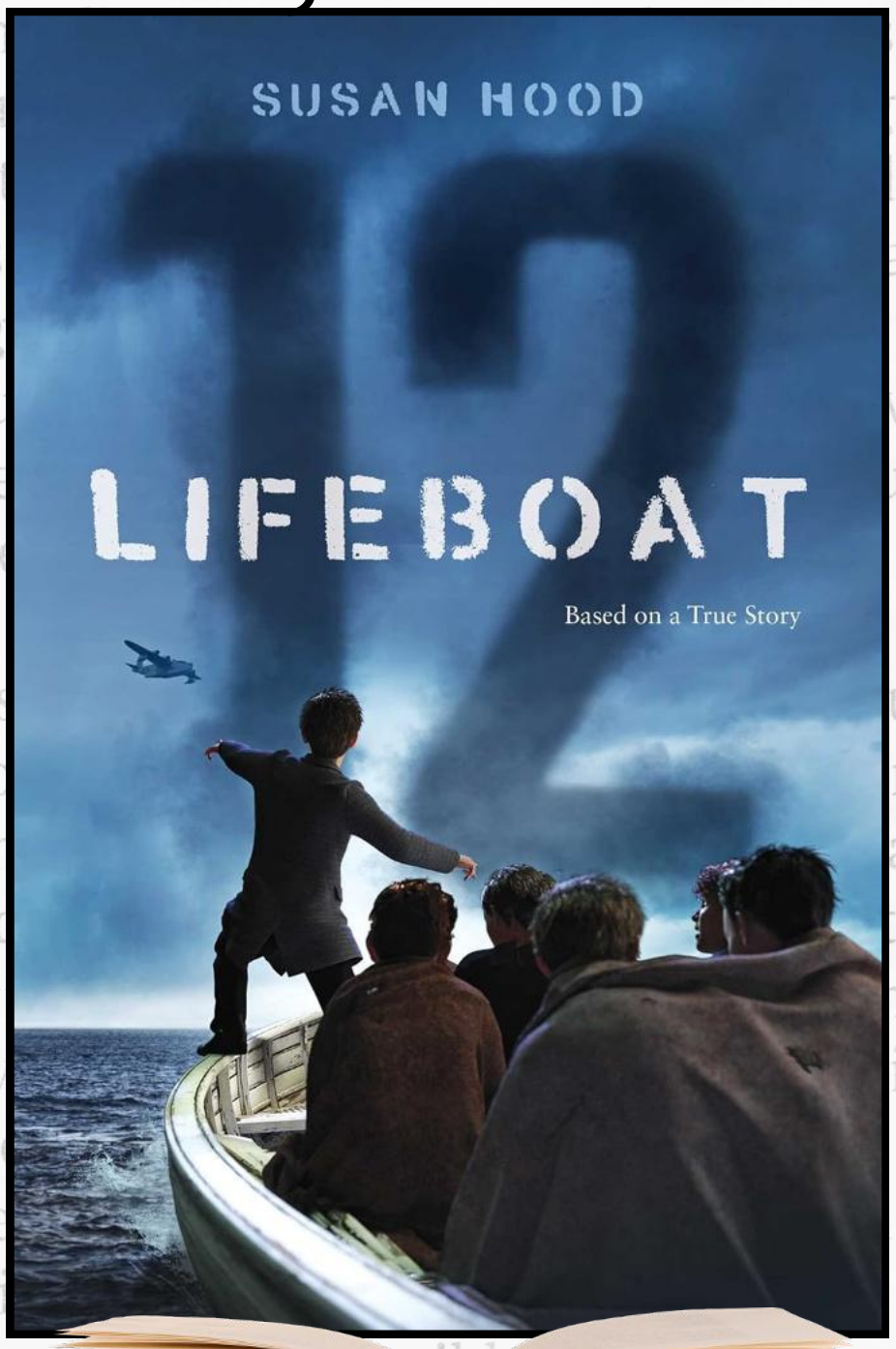


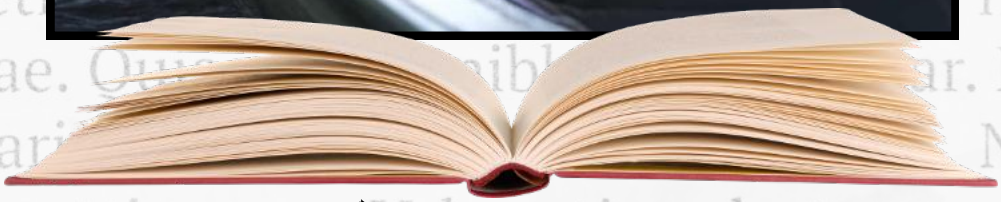


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LIFEBOAT 12

By Susan Hood

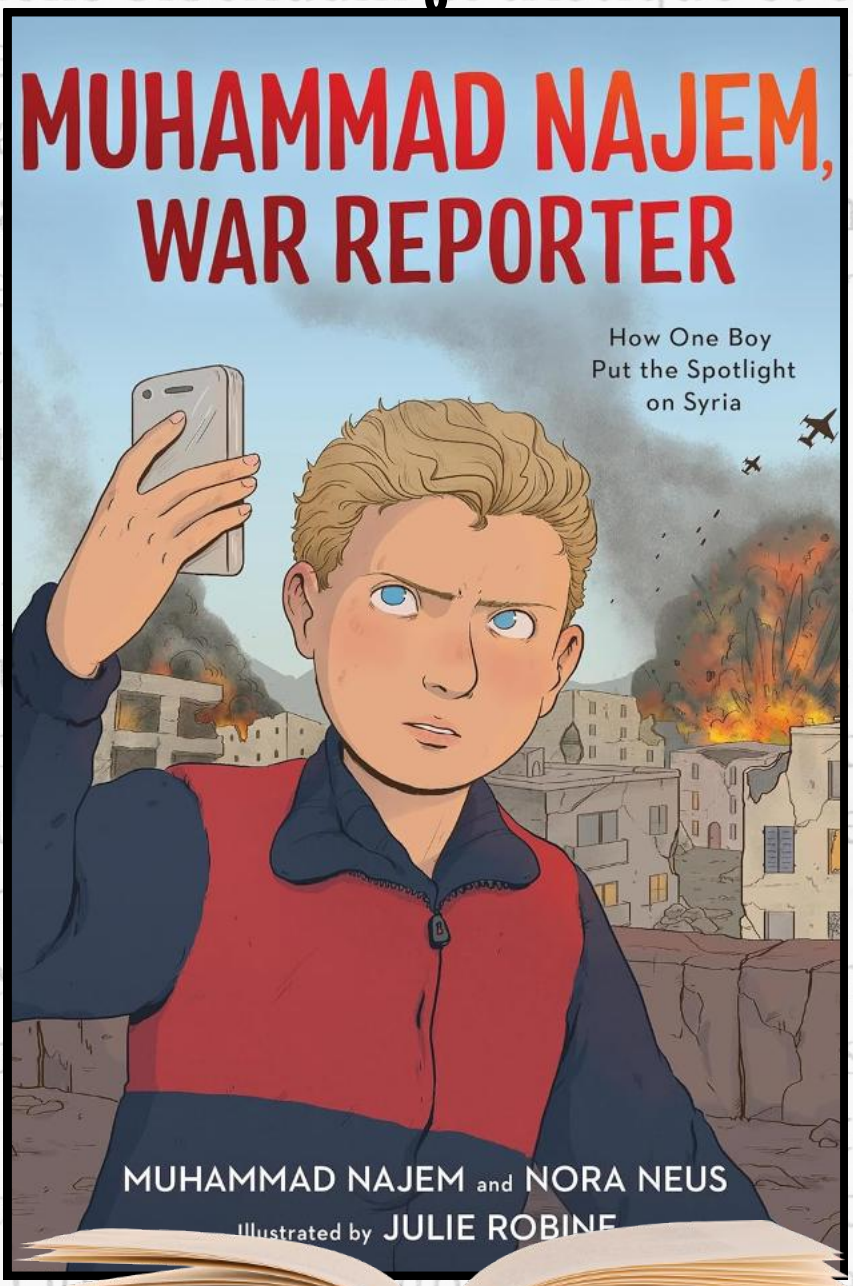




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MUHAMMAD NAJEM, WAR REPORTER

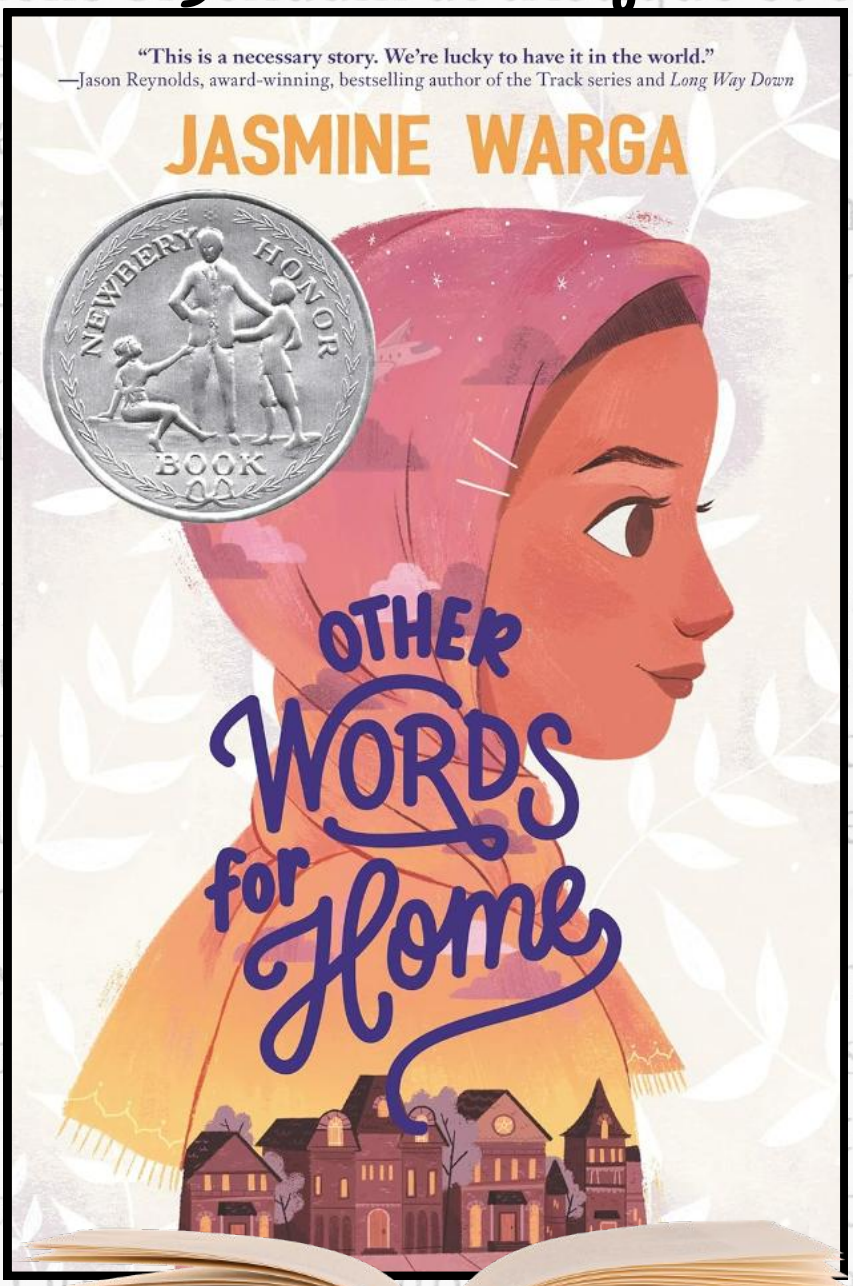
by Muhammad Najem & Nora Neus



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

OTHER WORDS FOR HOME

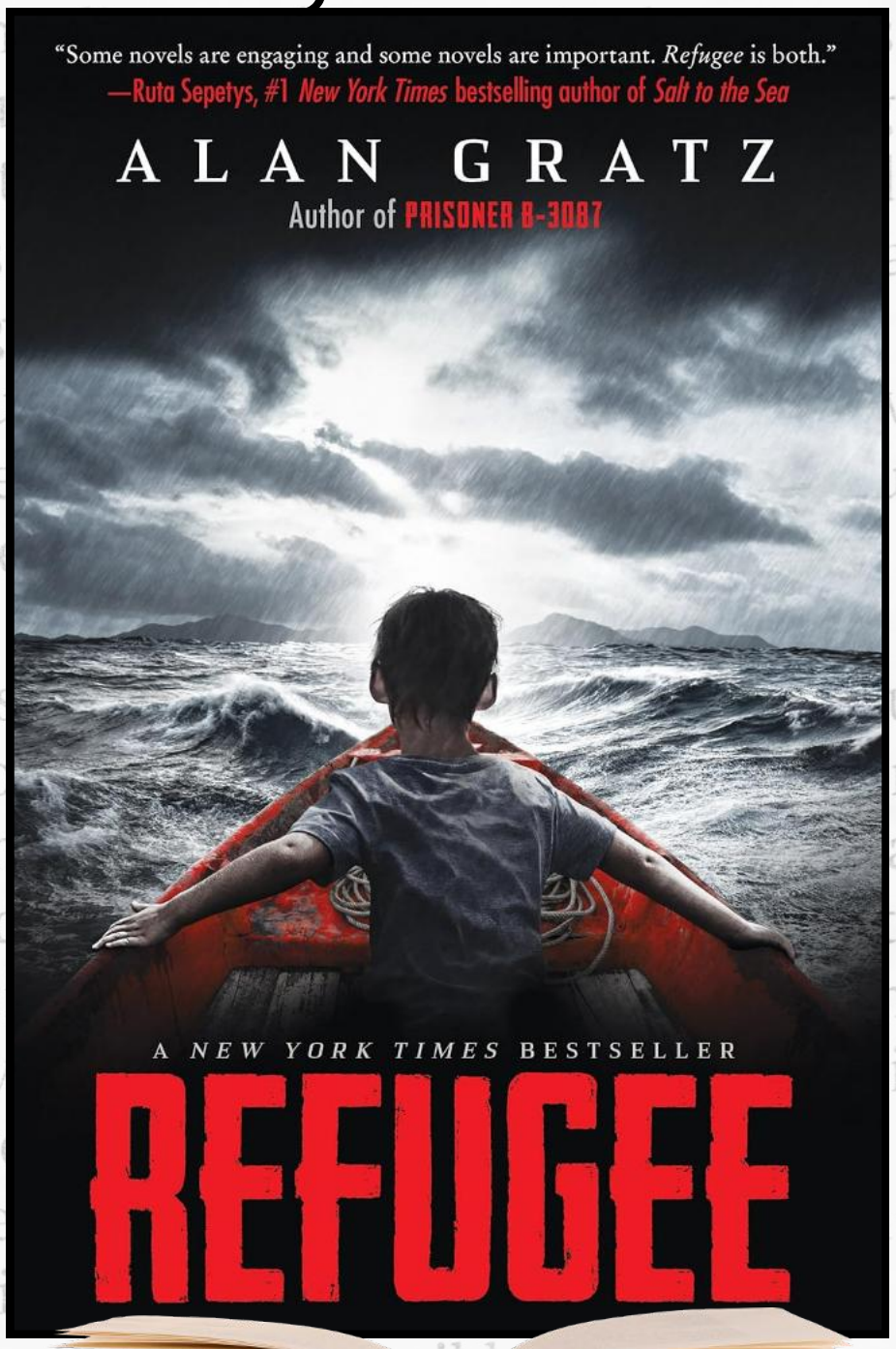
by Jasmine Warga



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REFUGEE

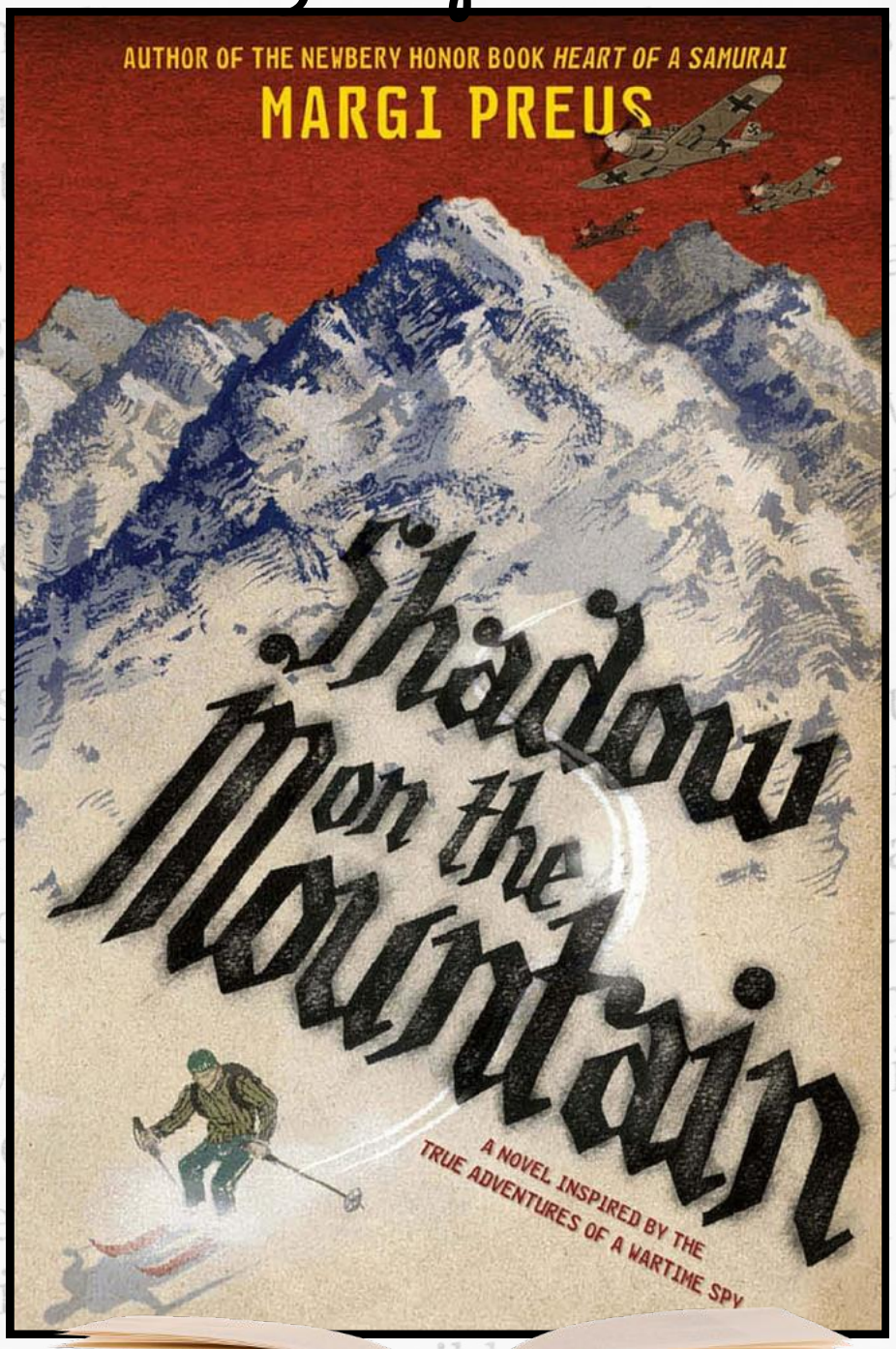
By Alan Gratz

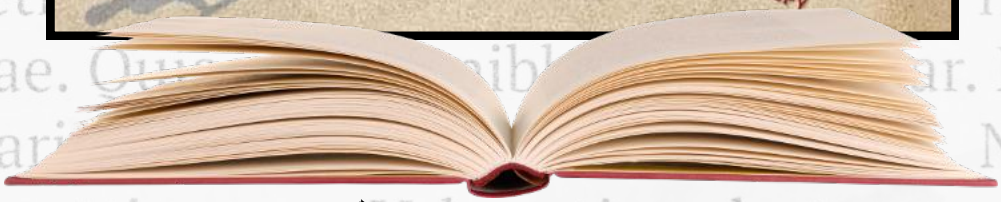


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

SHADOW ON THE MOUNTAIN

By Margi Preus

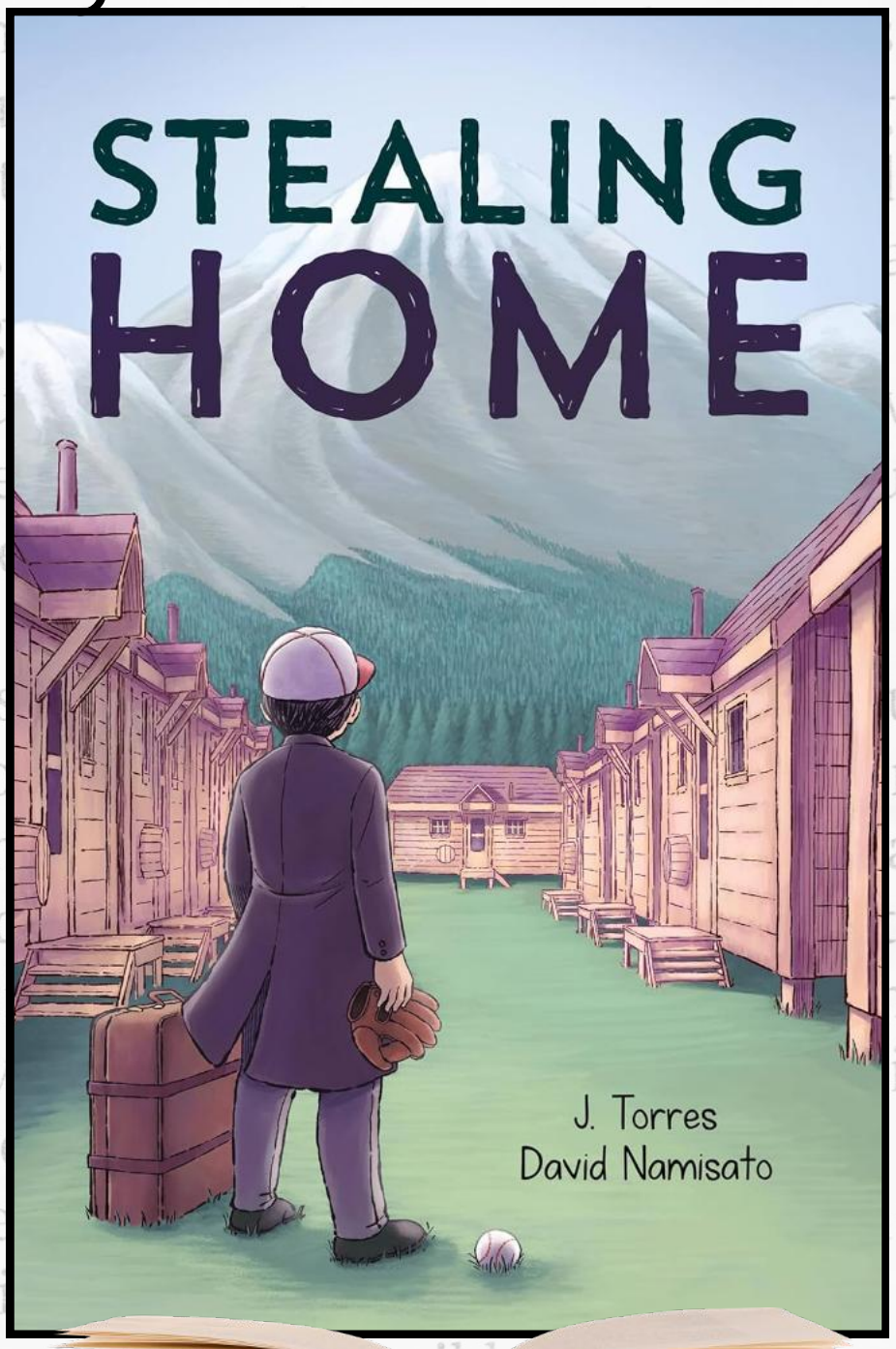




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

STEALING HOME

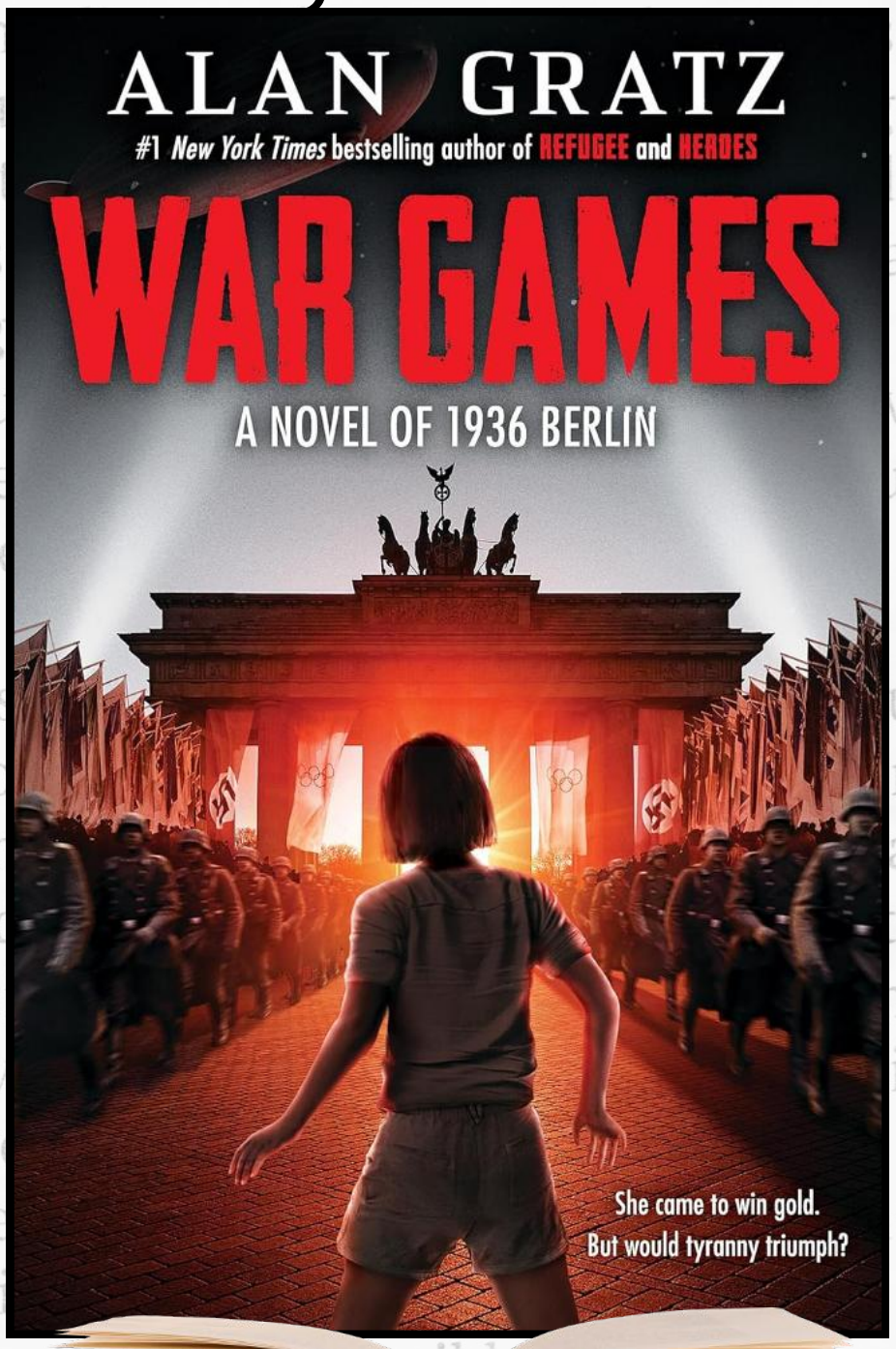
By J. Torres & David Namisato



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WAR GAMES

By Alan Gratz

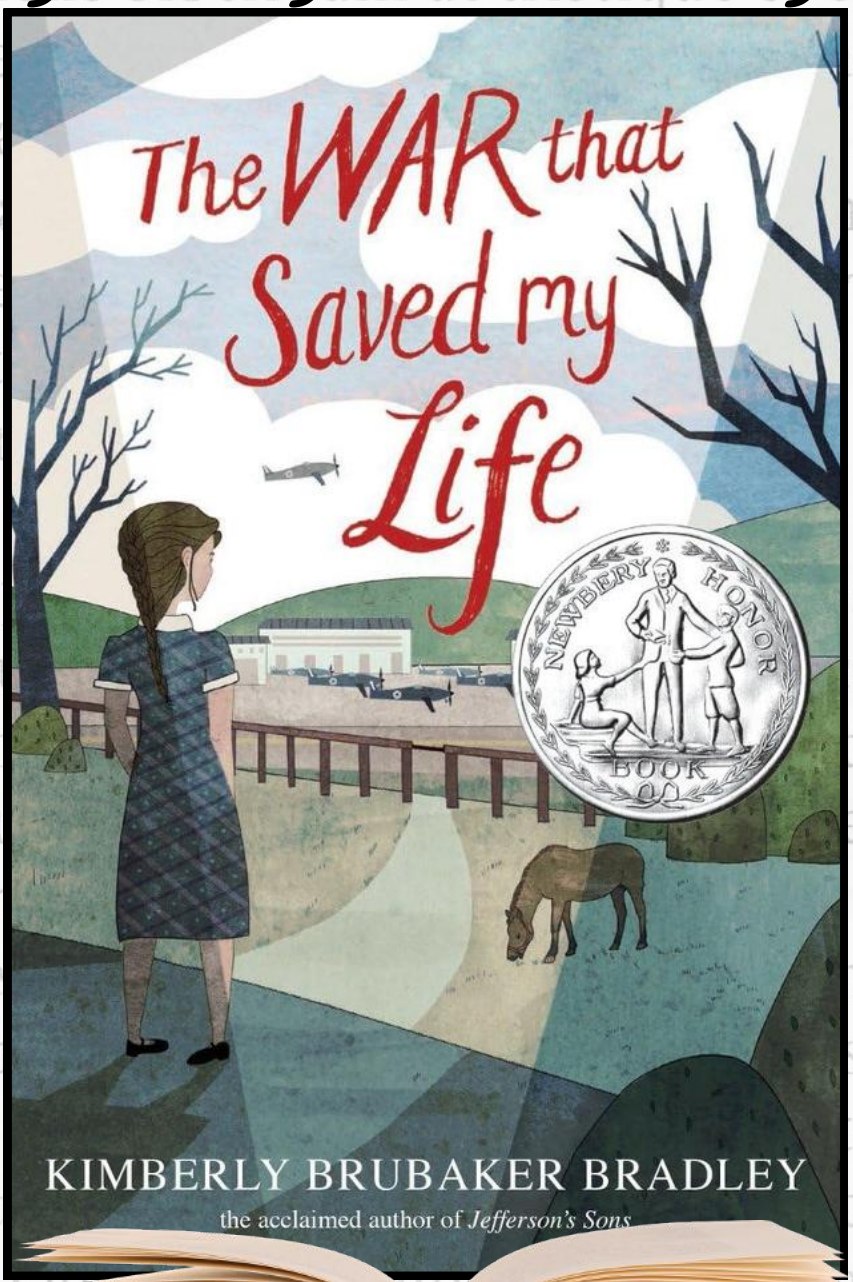




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THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



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